

MM 3.13-5d: SCAG shall help reduce fire threats in the region as part of the Growth Visioning process and as policies in the update of SCAG's Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guide.

MM 3.13-6a: Implementation agencies shall carefully evaluate the growth inducing potential of individual projects so that the full implications of the project are understood. Individual environmental documents shall quantify indirect impacts (growth that could be facilitated or induced) on public services and utilities to the extent feasible. Lead and responsible agencies then will make any necessary adjustments to the applicable General Plan. Any such identified adjustment shall be communicated to SCAG.

MM 3.13-7a: Project implementation agencies shall undertake project specific review of the public utilities and services as part of project specific environmental review. For any identified impacts, project implementation agencies shall ensure that the appropriate school district has the school capacity, or is planning for the capacity, that the project will generate. Appropriate mitigation measures, such as new school construction or expansion, shall be identified. The project implementation agencies or local jurisdiction shall be responsible for ensuring adherence to the mitigation measures. SCAG shall be provided with documentation of compliance with any necessary mitigation measures.

MM 3.13-8a: Prior to construction, the implementing agency shall identify the locations of existing utility lines. The contractor shall avoid all known utility lines during construction.

MM 3.13-8b: The implementation agency shall work with the local jurisdiction(s) where the project is being built to ensure compliance with public utility codes and regulations.

MM 3.13-9a: SCAG shall encourage the California Integrated Waste Management Board to continue to enforce solid waste diversion mandates that are enacted by the Legislature.

MM 3.13-9b: SCAG shall encourage local jurisdictions to continue to adopt programs to comply with state solid waste diversion rate mandates and, where possible, shall encourage further recycling to exceed these rates.

MM 3.13-9c: Future impacts related to management of solid waste shall be minimized through cooperation, information sharing, and program development during the update of the Integrated Solid Waste Management chapter of SCAG's Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guide and through SCAG's Energy and Environment Committee. SCAG shall consult with the California Integrated Waste Management Board during this process.

# MEMO

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**DATE:** September 12, 2006

**TO:** Open Space Working Group

**FROM:** Jill Eggerman, Assistant Regional Planner, (213) 236-1919, [eggerman@scag.ca.gov](mailto:eggerman@scag.ca.gov)

**SUBJECT:** Regional Comprehensive Plan Chapter Format and Structure

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## **SUMMARY/BACKGROUND:**

Staff has prepared a demonstration of the basic structure and format for Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) Chapters. The attached write-up both describes each of the elements of a plan chapter, and provides examples for Open Space and Habitat. It should be clearly noted, however, that the outcomes and strategies shown are not proposals for inclusion in the chapter, but merely demonstrations.

## **Attachment**

Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) Open Space and Habitat Chapter: Basic Chapter Structure and Sample Outcomes/Strategies

**Southern California Association of Governments  
Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) Energy Chapter  
Basic Chapter Structure  
Sample Outcomes/Strategies**

**RCP Purpose and Approach**

The Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) promotes policy objectives of the Regional Council, fulfills and implements the new organizational Strategic Plan, and serves to assist outside parties in implementing regional plans.

**RCP Standard Chapter Sections -**

**Existing Conditions Section (“Problem Statement”)**

This section lays out the best available survey of information on the topic, emphasizing areas of particular interest consistent with performance outcomes.

**Policies**

The policy section compiles the full body of existing and new applicable regional policy in list form. This section is focused on the regional growth vision (2% Strategy) adopted in 2004.

**Performance Outcomes**

This section sets out a limited number (1-4) of specific quantified objectives. Consistent with “problem statement” emphasized in “Existing Conditions” section. The performance outcomes are the “centerpiece” of the chapter, and establish what the region is setting out to achieve.

**Strategy and Actions**

The Strategy and action section will describe specific activities intended to achieve the performance outcomes in the prior section. Shown below are generalized examples of strategies and actions. The actual plan chapter should make specific action recommendations for a variety of parties (e.g Federal governments, State, region, cities and counties).

**Resources and Bibliography**

This section will compile references and information resources.

**NOTE** – This write-up was prepared for the Open Space Working Group to demonstrate the intended structure of RCP Chapters. As such it presents 2 sample performance outcomes and associated actions and strategies. This *should not* be construed as a proposal to include these particular items in the plan. The RCP Purpose and Approach, and the example regional policy shown, however, do represent actions taken by the Regional Council, and will be included.

**Examples for Open Space (see note)**

Section	Example 1	Example 2
Existing Conditions (problem statement)	The region lacks sufficient community open space.	The region's natural habitat is threatened and segmented by development.
Policy	(The region will) develop strategies to encourage development of community open space.	(The region will) develop strategies to encourage habitat linkages.
Performance Outcome(s)	The region will increase acreage of active and passive recreation parks by 2020.	The region will increase viable habitat via linkages in each county by 2020.
Strategy and Actions	<p>The region will establish land use patterns that increase frequency of park space.</p> <p>The region will establish infrastructure that supports access to park space.</p> <p>Governments will encourage maintenance of community open space.</p> <p>Governments will encourage creation and maintenance of community gardens.</p>	<p>The region will support the development of new technologies for modification of crossings.</p> <p>The region will support community awareness of importance and general locations of linkages.</p> <p>Governments will encourage maintenance of viable habitat linkages.</p>

**NOTE** – This write-up was prepared for the Open Space Working Group to demonstrate the intended structure of RCP Chapters. As such it presents 2 sample performance outcomes and associated actions and strategies. This *should not* be construed as a proposal to include these particular items in the plan. The RCP Purpose and Approach, and the example regional policy shown, however, do represent actions taken by the Regional Council, and will be included.

# MEMO

**DATE:** September 12, 2006

**TO:** Open Space Working Group

**FROM:** Jessica Kirchner, Associate Regional Planner, (213) 236-1983, [kirchner@scag.ca.gov](mailto:kirchner@scag.ca.gov)

**SUBJECT:** Draft Open Space Chapter Goals

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**SUMMARY:**

During the prior fiscal year, staff engaged the RCP Task Force in discussion on potential performance outcomes for each chapter included in the RCP. Based on these discussions, a review of comparable plans, and available data, staff is now proposing initial performance outcomes along with the basic strategy intended to achieve those outcomes. Staff presented preliminary goals for the Open Space and Habitat chapter at the RCP Task Force meeting on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Due to the quantity of work that remains in order to develop the Open Space program, staff feels it would be inappropriate to present specific performance outcomes to either the Task Force or the Working Group at this time. Once the program has proceeded beyond the initial analysis, and a specific methodology has been identified, staff will return to the Task Force and the Working Group with quantified performance outcomes. As a result, this memo includes discussion of broad goals rather than specific performance outcomes.

**ATTACHMENT:**

Proposed goals

**REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**  
**Open Space and Habitat Chapter**  
September 2006

Goals and Strategies – Initial Proposal

**Overview**

The overall purpose of the Open Space and Habitat Chapter is to establish regional goals and an action plan – including measurable performance criteria for the protection of open space and habitat resources in Southern California. For purposes of this report “open space” is divided into three focus areas:

Natural open space - areas with regionally unique or threatened biological resources, large contiguous blocks of natural open space and areas that link large blocks of natural open space.

Community open space – recreation areas that function as regional facilities, open space that serves the daily needs or defines the character of local neighborhoods, and open space that connects or buffers land used in developed areas.

Agricultural lands – prime farmlands lands covered by the Williamson Act agricultural lands that function as buffers or linkages to natural open space and agricultural lands that are important components of community open space. Also all lands that currently have a General Plan Agricultural designation or have a designation that allows specific types of agricultural activities

SCAG will identify and designate lands within the SCAG region according to the following categories listed above. As part of the Land Use and Housing chapter additional lands will be designated as various types of “urban.”

**Goals<sup>1</sup>**

1. **Goal:** Protection of natural open space areas identified as regionally important.  
**Description:** Inventory existing open space plans and programs to determine amount of natural open space under protection. Prioritize areas for protection.  
**Potential Quantified Goal:** acres preserved, percentage of priority areas preserved, reduction in rate of loss of natural open space  
**Data considerations:** will utilize a combination of SCAG data sets and data acquired by the consultant, requires identification of baseline, measures the rate at which open space loss occurs. Factors for the prioritization of natural open space include biological value (type and condition). Factors for prioritization of community open space include accessibility, regional importance, population served and uniqueness.

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<sup>1</sup> SCAG, in partner with a consultant, is currently developing an Open Space Program. Although the team has completed a significant amount of work to date, a vast amount of analytical analysis remains. Due to the quantity of work that remains in program development, it would be inappropriate to include specific performance outcomes at this time. Once the program has proceeded beyond the initial analysis, and a specific methodology has been identified, staff will return to the task force with quantified performance outcomes. As a result, this memo includes discussion of goals rather than performance outcomes, by contrast to other RCP chapters.

2. **Goal:** Add community open space through infill/redevelopment.  
**Description:** Requires designation of “urban” parts of the region, cataloguing of infill areas and community open space  
**Potential Quantified Goal:** Increase in acres of community open space per 1,000 residents, increase in number of Compass partner cities using proposed design standards for infill/urban development  
**Data Consideration:** need to develop baseline for ratio, determine the types of community open space to include.
3. **Goal:** Urbanization  
**Description:** Requires designation of “urban” parts of the region  
**Potential Quantified Goal:** Reduction in rate of agricultural acres converted to non agricultural use or from one agricultural use to another.  
**Data considerations:** need to determine rate of agricultural conversion and percentage rate reduction.

### **Strategies**

Activities/Plan provisions – The above-proposed goals will be achieved by the application a strategy involving the following actions. Through the development of the chapter, SCAG will establish the required levels of implementation action to achieve the specified goals.

#### **Provide programmatic incentives for implementation, including finance**

SCAG will identify resources to direct toward local agencies that choose to implement the provisions of this plan. Programmatic incentives include strengthened Intergovernmental Review (IGR), CEQA reform and/or General Plan consistency. Resources will include funds identified in the current state infrastructure bonds for regional planning incentives. In addition, SCAG will propose various new innovative finance mechanisms for this purpose such as benefit assessment districts, conservation tax credits, SAFETEA-LU (and other federal fund sources), Purchase-of-development rights, public private partnerships. Additional local funding mechanisms will be explored.

#### **Building and design standards, including green building (also a land use strategy)**

SCAG will develop a set of simple, broadly applicable standards for various types of urban development consistent with the 2% strategy. For example, regional centers identified in the 2% strategy should feature housing at a given range of density, floor area ratio, and orientation, etc. Further, SCAG will describe desired targets for green building.

#### **Land use and urban design standards (for community/infill development)**

SCAG will develop a set of simple, broadly applicable standards for various types of urban development consistent with the 2% strategy. These standards will focus on walkability, pedestrian friendliness, multi-modal systems and creation of community open space.

#### **Implement 2% Strategy**

SCAG will continue working with individual jurisdictions to collaborate on planning and development of key strategic growth areas identified in the 2% strategy.

### Appendix I: SCAG Policies Pertaining to Open Space and Habitat

1	<b>Enhance Recreation and Tourism Opportunities:</b> Provide adequate land resources to meet the outdoor recreation needs of the present and future residents in the region and to promote tourism in the region. [1996 RCPG]
2	<b>Maintain Economic Productivity of Regional Lands:</b> Maintain adequate viable resource production lands, particularly lands devoted to commercial agriculture and mining operations. [1996 RCPG]
3	<b>Utilize Growth Forecasts In Natural Areas Planning:</b> The population, housing, and jobs forecasts, which are adopted by SCAG's Regional Council and that reflect local plans and policies, shall be used by SCAG in all phases of implementation and review. [1996 RCPG]
4	<b>Use Proactive Participatory Systems Approach for Natural Areas and Recreation Planning:</b> Future impacts to natural areas and recreation lands shall be avoided through cooperation, information sharing, and program development during the update of the Natural Areas and Conservation chapter of SCAG's Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guide and through SCAG's Energy and Environment Committee. [2004 RTP-EIR]
5	<b>Encourage Adaptive Reuse for Growth:</b> Encourage patterns of urban development and land use, which reduce costs on infrastructure construction and make better use of existing facilities. [1996 RCPG]
6	<b>Use Proactive Participatory Systems Approach for Ecological Conservation Planning:</b> Minimize future impacts to biological resources through cooperation, information sharing, and program development during the update of the Habitat and Natural Areas chapter of SCAG's Regional Comprehensive Plan, through SCAG's Energy and Environment Committee and in consultation with resource agencies. [2004 RTP-EIR]
7	<b>Encourage Planning for Environmentally Sensitive Lands:</b> Encourage planned development in locations least likely to cause environmental impact. [1996 RCPG]
8	<b>Use Proactive Participatory Systems Approach for Cultural Resource Planning:</b> Minimize future impacts to cultural resources through cooperation, information sharing, and program development of SCAG's Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guide, through SCAG's Energy and Environment Committee and in consultation with other resource agencies (such as the Office of Historic Preservation), during this update process. [2004 RTP-EIR]
9	<b>Preserve Forests and Designated Natural Areas:</b> National Forests shall remain permanently preserved and used as natural areas. SCAG shall support policies and actions that preserve natural areas areas identified in local, state, and federal plans. [1996 RCPG]
10	<b>Promote Low-impact Development Techniques:</b> Promote water-efficient land use development. [2004 RTP-EIR]
11	<b>Protect Ecologically Productive Lands:</b> Support the protection of vital resources such as wetlands, groundwater recharge areas, woodlands, production lands, and land containing unique and endangered plants and animals. [1996 RCPG]
12	<b>Promote Fire-wise Land Management:</b> Encourage the use of fire-resistant vegetation and the elimination of brush and chaparral in the immediate vicinity of development in areas with high fire threat. [2004 RTP-EIR]
13	<b>Preserve Cultural and Archeological Lands:</b> Encourage the implementation of measures aimed at the preservation and protection of recorded and unrecorded cultural resources and archaeological sites.[1996 RCPG]



14	<b>Promote Fire Management Planning:</b> Help reduce fire threats in the region as part of the Growth Visioning process and as policies in the update of SCAG's Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guide. [2004 RTP-EIR]
15	<b>Avoid Hazardous Lands:</b> Discourage development, or encourage the use of special design requirements, in areas with steep slopes, high fire, flood, and seismic hazards. [1996 RCPG]
16	<b>Coordinate Recreational Planning Within and Across Region:</b> Encourage member jurisdictions to work as partners to address regional outdoor recreation needs and to acquire the necessary funding for the implementation of their plans and programs. [2004 RTP-EIR]
17	<b>Support Sustainability Planning for Communities:</b> Support local jurisdictions and other service providers in their efforts to develop sustainable communities and provide, equally to all members of society, accessible and effective services such as: public education, housing, health care, social services, recreational facilities, law enforcement, and fire protection. [1996 RCPG]
18	<b>Encourage Conservation of Agricultural Lands:</b> Encourage implementation agencies to obtain assistance from the American Farmland Trust in developing and implementing farmland conservation measures. [2004 RTP-EIR]
19	<b>Improve Access to Natural Areas:</b> Increase the accessibility to natural areas lands for outdoor recreation. [1996 RCPG]
20	<b>Encourage Preservation of Agricultural Lands:</b> Encourage implementation agencies to avoid the premature conversion of farmlands by promoting infill development and the continuation of agricultural uses until urban development is imminent; if development of agricultural lands is necessary, growth should be directed to those lands on which the continued viability of agricultural production has been compromised by surrounding urban development or the loss of local markets. [2004 RTP-EIR]
21	<b>Enhance Sustainable Recreation Resource Management:</b> Promote self-sustaining regional recreation resources and facilities. [1996 RCPG]
22	<b>Encourage Protection of Agricultural Lands:</b> Encourage implementation agencies to establish transfer of development rights (TDR) programs to direct growth to less agriculturally valuable lands (while considering the potential effects at the sites receiving the transfer) and ensure the continued protection of the most agriculturally valuable land within each county through the purchase of the development rights for these lands. [2004 RTP-EIR]
23	<b>Maintain Buffer Zones:</b> Maintain natural areas for adequate protection of lives and properties against natural and man-made hazards. [1996 RCPG]
24	<b>Promote Multiple-Use Approach To Development:</b> Encourage that multiple use of spaces be allowed as feasible and practical, and encourage redevelopment activities to focus some investment on recreation uses so as to provide more opportunities for access to natural areas close to the urban core. [2004 RTP-EIR]
25	<b>Avoid Hazardous Areas:</b> Minimize potentially hazardous developments in hillsides, canyons, areas susceptible to flooding, earthquakes, wildfire and other known hazards, and areas with limited access for emergency equipment. [1996 RCPG]
26	<b>Support Cooperative Planning Across Levels of Organization (Systems Approach):</b> Encourage member jurisdictions that have trails and trail segments determined to be regionally significant to work together to support regional trail networks. SCAG shall encourage joint use of utility, transportation and other rights-of-way, greenbelts, and biodiversity areas. [2004 RTP-EIR]
27	<b>Avoid Areas that Risk Health and Safety:</b> Minimize public expenditure for infrastructure and facilities to support urban type land uses in areas where public health and safety could not be guaranteed. [1996 RCPG]

28	<b>Support Livability and Integrate Natural and Human Uses of the Land:</b> Foster livability in all communities. [Growth Vision]
29	<b>Utilize Effective Ecosystem Management Planning:</b> Develop well-managed viable ecosystems or known habitats of rare, threatened and endangered species, including wetlands. [1996 RCPG]
30	<b>Preserve Environmentally Sensitive Areas:</b> Preserve rural, agricultural, recreational, and environmentally sensitive areas. [Growth Vision]
31	<b>Use An Ecosystem Approach To Regional Planning:</b> Encourage "watershed management" programs and strategies, recognizing the primary role of local governments in such efforts. [1996 RCPG]
32	<b>Protect Environmentally Sensitive Areas:</b> Protect sensitive environmental features such as steep slopes, wetlands, and stream corridors from development. [Growth Vision]
33	<b>Support Flow of Data and Information for Systems Approach to Planning:</b> Coordinate watershed management planning at the subregional level by (1) providing consistent regional data; (2) serving as a liaison between affected local, state, and federal watershed management agencies; and (3) ensuring that watershed planning is consistent with other planning objectives (e. g., transportation, air quality, water supply). [1996 RCPG]
34	<b>Support Sustainability Planning and Design:</b> Utilize "green" development techniques. [Growth Vision]
35	<b>Support Wetland Conservation:</b> Support regional efforts to identify and cooperatively plan for wetlands to facilitate both sustaining the amount and quality of wetlands in the region and expediting the process for obtaining wetlands permits. [1996 RCPG]
36	<b>Promote Smart Growth:</b> Promote infill development and redevelopment to revitalize existing communities. [Growth Vision]
37	<b>Encourage Integrative Planning:</b> Encourage mitigation measures that reduce noise in certain locations, measures aimed at preservation of biological and ecological resources, measures that would reduce exposure to seismic hazards, minimize earthquake damage, and to develop emergency response and recovery plans: [1996 RCPG]
38	<b>Ensure adequate access to Natural Areas:</b> [Growth Vision]